NEW YORK STATE

Homeland Security and Emergency Services

Fire Prevention and Control

2023 TECHNICAL RESCUE CONFERENCE

June 1 - 4, 2023

State Preparedness Training Center

5900 Airport Road
Oriskany, NY 13424

2023 New York State Technical Rescue Conference Workshops

Effective Extrication Command

Presenter: *Chief (Ret.) Todd B. Bane*

This presentation is an interactive discussion about being better as a command officer for extrication incidents. This presentation is a discussion-based program, comparing the course of events and tasks at a structure fire to those at a vehicle extrication. We will compare and discuss these similarities and differences. All functional levels from the individual rescuer to the

Target Audience

All levels of emergency responders

Presentation Duration

90 Minutes

Reading the Wreck and Auditing your Extrication Program

Presenter: *Chief (Ret.) Todd B. Bane*

Every wreck tells a story, from the minor fender bender to the severe wreck with entrapment. This presentation encourages audience participation and will help teach how to read vehicle damage and different ways to view the extrication pathway. This whole picture approach looks at the damage before narrowing it down to workable solutions and what may no longer work. Also, there will be conversation and discussion about auditing your extrication program to match the services you expect to provide for both your agency and your skilled and prepared rescuers.

Target Audience

All levels of emergency responders

Water Rescue Victims: On-Scene Medical Priorities

Presenter: *Bradley Vrooman*

This lecture/discussion will address the medical priorities of victim treatment on-scene of water rescue incidents by rescue personnel, specifically addressing hypoxia and hypothermia, the medical dangers of inadequate/insufficient treatment. The use of current medical equipment to enhance the survivability of near-drowning hypoxic/hypothermic victims, including Supraglottic Airway Devices (SAD) and oxygen-activated, self0ehating thermal victim sell systems recommended by the Committee on Tactical Combat Casualty Care (coTCCC).

Target Audience

Swiftwater/Flood Rescue Technicians, MTOs, Fire Chiefs, Law Enforcement Water Rescue Personnel, EMS Providers

Presentation Duration

90 Minutes

Catarafts for Swiftwater/Flood Rescue

Presenter: *Bradley Vrooman*

This presentation/workshop will present, through discussion and demonstrated use, the capabilities and proficiency of frameless catarafts for Swiftwater/flood rescue. Lightweight and highly maneuverable, their self-bailing ability is superior to a standard self-bailing raft, and their performance and safety factors when integrated into Tension Diagonal and Moveable Control Point Rope Systems far outweighs other inflatable watercraft used in water rescue scenarios. This presentation will focus on use of these craft in Tension Diagonal and MCP cross-water applications, including ghost-boating, solo rescuer, and victim pickup applications.

Target Audience

Swiftwater/Flood Rescue Technicians, MTO’s, Fire Chiefs, Law Enforcement Water Rescue personnel, etc.

Presentation Duration

90 Minutes

MENTAL HEALTH: What is it, and what gets in its way?

Presenter: *Kimberly Adams, LCSW*

Kimberly Adams is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in private outpatient mental health practice in Allentown, Pennsylvania. In this presentation, she will set aside complex, diagnosis-based language and instead ask what do we actually mean when we use the term mental health and wellness? In a world full of stress and expectations, what do we mean by feeling good? And, how can an individual know if they're able to accomplish this on their own, or if they need help?

At its worst, poor mental health can be isolating and stigmatizing, so much so that it leads to chronic depression, sleepless nights, helplessness, hopelessness, and even suicide. Ms. Adams' presentation will do the opposite, allowing audience members to experience a genuine connection to the material, and to understand themselves as having natural, understandable experiences that can be addressed and improved upon.

Target Audience

Firefighters, Officers, Chief's, First Responders and Technical Rescue Team Members

Presentation Duration

90 Minutes

Rise of the Machines: Man in Machine / Machine In Man

Presenters:

Bill Hallinan RN, MS

Jake Bromage

Terry Brown

This course is an evidence and case based presentation that follows the NFPA core competency format to enhance responders ability to handle rescue incidents with small and large machines. The curriculum was developed with the Finger Lakes Regional Level 1 Trauma Center as part of a performance improvement project to improve outcomes with these trapped patients. The course content will present a hazard assessment of types of incidents, initial and extended operations, command considerations, patient care, techniques and tools needed for success. Case Studies will tie these topics together. Presenters will discuss what tools and core competencies are needed to build out a response team to these incidents. The presentation will address the NFPA technical rescue training outline for technician level education for machinery rescue.

Target Audience

Any front-line initial responders, technical rescue specialists and command staff operating on a machine rescue.

Presentation Duration

90 Minutes

So, you want to be an OFPC Technical Rescue Instructor?

Presenter: *Deputy Chief George Bassler*

This workshop will provide information on the process to become a NY State Fire Instruction for the Technical Rescue Branch.

Target Audience

Attendees interested in becoming a NY State Fire Instructor

Presentation Duration

90 Minutes

Swiftwater Rescue - Rules of Engagement

Presenter: *Battalion Chief Greg Merrell*

Swift Water Rescue - Rules of Engagement is a classroom course that prepares firefighters, EMS personnel and all first responders in both rural and urban environments to arrive first on scene at a water rescue. Every first responder needs this course to ensure the safety of themselves, their crew, other rescuers and the victim(s) at water rescue incidents. This course is designed for all Fire and Rescue personnel, including non-water rescue trained members as well as experienced water rescue team members and technicians. Water Rescue is one of the most dangerous and dynamic rescue situations that a first responder may encounter in their career. It is also the most likely technical rescue scenario first responders will face. The lessons learned in this course will provide students with a foundation to properly perform the following skill sets; scene size-up (enroute and upon arrival), scene safety, assessing the victim(s), hydrology, assessing the water conditions, allocation of rescue resources and rescue decision making. Students will learn proper personal protective equipment to be used at water rescue emergencies and simple and basic water rescue equipment that should be carried on fire apparatus and all emergency response units. This course will outline steps to be taken and decision making to ensure that fire crews will respond, quickly, safely and meet the needs of the citizens we serve. Upon course completion, attendees will be able to identify rescue priorities and utilize these priorities to ensure a safe and successful rescue. This course covers the “Rules of Engagement” that may be implemented in attendees own department or agency for response to water rescue emergencies.

Target Audience

US&R personnel & First Responders to include: Firefighters, EMS, Law Enforcement & Military Personnel

Presentation Duration

90 Minutes

Natural Disaster Response - Rules of Engagement

Presenter: *Battalion Chief Greg Merrell*

This course covers the “Rules of Engagement” for response to natural disasters by first responders. This course is ideal for EMS, Fire, Law Enforcement and US&R personnel. Lessons learned will include initial scene size-up, how to establish search and rescue priorities and to begin operations following a natural disaster in their community. Whether the disaster is caused by Hurricane, Tornado, Earthquake, Tsunami or Flooding incident, the after affects are similar and so are the immediate actions required by first responders. The tactics and techniques learned in this course will ensure that first responders are prepared when disaster strikes. It is imperative that we must act quickly, safely and meet the need of our community when they truly need us. Students will learn immediate actions they can do to ensure the safety of themselves, their crew and the affected victims. This course is based on lessons learned from Urban Search and Rescue deployments to tornado and flooding incidents. The lessons learned are from the perspective of being first on scene at natural disaster events and immediate actions required, as well as from the perspective of being pat of later arriving units while serving as Rescue Team Manager as part of US&R response. Attendees will learn Search, Victim and Structural markings; this knowledge will allow for safety of all personnel and enhance the ability to make rescues following natural disasters. Students will also learn search techniques to provide rapid and safe clearing of areas and reduce duplication of efforts. Attendees will learn to integrate into the Incident Management System from the early stages of the incident through a multi-operational period event. The “rules” learned will provide students with knowledge, skills and abilities to be an effective part of a natural disaster response in their own community with their department/agency.

Target Audience

US&R personnel & First Responders to include: Firefighters, EMS, Law Enforcement & Military Personnel

Presentation Duration

90 Minutes

High Profile Vehicle Operation

Presenter: *Beau Moreno*

A comprehensive outline of best practices for training and education for Public Safety and Rescue Professionals. The High Profile Vehicle (HPV) Course is a fast-paced, training and educational program specifically designed for Public Safety and Rescue Professionals, including Law Enforcement, Fire, Rescue, EMS and Lifeguard Personnel. The Awareness and Operational levels are designed as a foundational course for all public safety and rescue professionals, regardless of their swimming ability or experience in, on or around the water.

Target Audience

Public Safety Rescue Professionals

Presentation Duration

180 Minutes

Responder Challenges of Electric Vehicles (Evs)

Presenter: *Ron Moore*

The Responder Challenges of Electric Vehicle programs is the most requested training program topic that Ron Currently receives and delivers, This multi media presentation highlights EV construction, Lithium-Ion battery challenges, crash protocols & fire suppression techniques.

Target Audience

1st and 2nd responders to electric vehicle emergencies; Police, Fire, EMS, Towing & Recovery

Presentation Duration

90 Minutes

Capstans to the Rescue - Winches at Work

Presenters: *Steve Disick, Domenick DiRienzo*

This 90-minute workshop will look at the history and background of capstans, modern day uses and how they are used in rescue. We will discuss the parts of a rescue capstan, some common misconceptions, and perform hands on testing of their strengths as well as their limitations. Capstans to the Rescue - Winches at Work was presented at the 2017 Technical Rescue Conference at Montour Falls, and it was suggested to us that it be presented again since they have begun to gain popularity in the rescue community since that time.

Target Audience

Rope Rescue and Confined Space Rescue Technicians

Presentation Duration

90 Minutes

Rigging Challenges Clinic

Presenters: *Steve Disick, Domenick DiRienzo*

Students will learn to understand the forces with the various systems they rig including system safety factors. Topics may include rigging with low overhead clearances, span anchors, lowering and raising over and around objects, working within a small footprint, horizontal into vertical openings, and evacuation from height options.

Target Audience

Rope Rescue and Confined Space Rescue Technicians

Presentation Duration

180 Minutes

Forgetting Azteks

Presenters: *Steve Disick, Domenick DiRienzo*

AZTEKs and other sets of fours have become adopted by the rescue community in such depth that some are now highly dependent on these expensive pieces of kit to perform simple tasks. This 90 minute workshop will look at how we can perform these same tasks by having lighter and less expensive gear as part of our kits, that is just as versatile and functional. Use examples will include everything from pickoffs to knot passing, to litter rigging and more. The equipment and techniques are a must for any rescue team with limited personnel to help make them more efficient at their tasks.

Target Audience

Rope Rescue and Confined Space Rescue Technicians

Presentation Duration

180 Minutes

Rescue Gone Wrong

Presenters: *Steve Disick, Domenick DiRienzo*

Scenarios will be staged utilizing common rescue systems where a component fails, or a safety system engages. Students will have to work through solving the problem together to get a potentially injured rescuer or victim to a safe area as soon as possible. Scenarios may include failures of confined space rope rescue systems, skate blocks, and/or highline systems. It is recommended that students taking this course have a more advanced knowledge and have taken technician level training for both confined space and rope rescue.

Target Audience

Advanced Rope Rescue and Confined Space Rescue Technicians

Presentation Duration

180 Minutes

Common Medical Complaints and Tech Rescue

Presenter: *Dr. Andrew R Poreda*

This lecture will provide an in-depth review of some of the most common medical complaints found at the scene of a technical rescue, including but not limited to MCI triage, hypothermia, crush syndrome, asphyxiation, and field amputation; will also review the appropriate NYS protocols and their application to these scenarios.

Target Audience

Fire & EMS personnel at the scene of technical rescue

Presentation Duration

90 Minutes

Making the switch. An open discussion regarding the transition from 13mm to 11mm rescue rope

Presenter Name: *Conor Miller*

This discussion will cover the reasoning, implementation processes and concerns teams are facing when picking or sticking with their current rope size. NFPA Standards and common practices have pushed 11mm into the limelight for fire rescue organizations. Does your team need to switch? Why should they? What if they don't? This session will provide a forum to ask and answer all of these questions. Team interoperability, the price of transition and training required to make it happen will be covered and discussed in detail. The presenter will share their personal experiences with both working to switch a team to smaller systems and petitioning another to stay the course. A highly interactive

setting for all participants to ask and answer.

Target Audience

Any fire department or technical rescue team currently running 13mm rope or in the process of buying equipment for their rescue cache.

Presentation Duration

90 Minutes

“Comfortable being Uncomfortable” - How to avoid the fatal mistakes

Presenter Name: *Kevin Deramus*

This combined classroom and case study presentation discusses how setting clear and high team standards produces optimal results when engaged in water rescue activities. The presentation will provide participants team building and functional fitness standards that disregard the commonly adopted lifeguard swim test standards for more “functional” water-based testing standards that can be adopted into new or existing teams. The presentation will then demonstrate how those standards should be applied in real rescue scenarios in over 24 state and multi-state water deployments. The presentation has documented and recorded lifesaving rescues for some of the most devastating storms recorded in the last decade in the State of Texas. Participants will view rescue caught on videos that will show the importance of proper training in the most dangerous rescue type (water).

Target Audience

Water Rescuers of all levels

Presentation Duration

90 Minutes

Flood Rescue - Night Operations

Presenter Name: *Joe Gribbins*

Night Operations in any rescue discipline are inherently dangerous. The lack of daylight distorts images and turns a daytime three-dimensional vista into a two-dimensional scene of grey shadows with some recognizable images. Individual boats and their crews are easily identified at a distance during the day. Distinguishing features such as boat and motor color combinations, crew numbers and crew habits show the differences between working boats. These visual clues that our brains rely on in the light of day become mere parts of the shadow-world that is a night operation. This seminar will alert the students to the added pitfalls of night operations around moving water and provide real world tips and guidelines for safer working habits in the darkness.

Target Audience

Rescuers, Managers and Planners

Presentation Duration

90 Minutes

Hazmat Problems in the Flood Environment

Presenter: *Joe Gribbins*

Hazardous materials are a consistent part of flood response but are often overlooked by rescuers who must work in contaminated water. This session will cover common hazmat problems and their sources during floods. This class will include a description of storm and sanitary systems and how these can mix when overstressed during floods. The type of PPE used in flood response and simple on-scene decontamination practices will be discussed. The adage of “the solution to pollution is dilution” should be debunked by the end of this session.

Target Audience

Rescuers, Managers and Planners

Presentation Duration

90 Minutes

Hazmat Problems at a Building Collapse

Presenter: *Joe Gribbins*

A building collapse is a dynamic rescue scene that involves a variety of disciplines working together. The Hazmat Incident norm of evacuating the building and slowly figuring out the problem is not an option. While the goals are obvious, a rescuer who is thrust into the role of safety and hazmat recognition may become distracted or overwhelmed. The potential harm to rescuers from hazardous materials abound. The problem of rescuer produced CO is a large theme in this presentation and simple solutions that mitigate the problem and allow the rescuers to do their work without interruption. Simple solutions and avoidance techniques for recognized hazards are discussed and shown for the students to take back to their AHJs. Rescuers, Hazmat Techs, managers, and anyone who might be told, “here, hold this meter” will benefit from this session

Target Audience

Rescuers, Managers and Planners

US National Grid and mapping solutions of the Hurricane Ian (2022) response

Presenter: *Al Studt*

US National Grid, the US land search & rescue coordinate system, its importance and ease of use will be described and demonstrated. Numerous web tools and apps will be shown that students will be able to use immediately at the conference and with their home organizations. There will be a case study of Hurricane Ian, which impacted SW Florida in 2022 and resulted in the longest single deployment for FL-TF4 at 14 days. A planning heavy event, the actual mapping solutions utilized by FL-TF4 over the varied missions such as searching islands and bays for missing or injured persons as well finding and evaluating hundreds of dislodged marine vessels that were pushed out into the mangroves far from typical navigation channels will be shown. Mapping software or data gathering tools such as Survey 123, QuickCapture, SARCOP, Mission Manager, SARTopo, CalTopo, Avenza Maps, GISsurfer and I am Responding will be discussed. A map without a grid is just a picture; a gridded map is a tool.

Target Audience

Technical rescue responders, wildland or urban search team members, company officers, firefighters, EMS responders, pilots, Emergency Managers, etc.

Presentation Duration

90 Minutes

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sUAS Capabilities

Presenter: *Peter Grocholski*

sUAS Capabilities (90 Min) - Presenters will have a discussion on current capability and limitations of sUAS platforms currently on the market. This discussion will be followed by a demonstration of a sUAS platform.

Target Audience

Members of the Emergency Services

Presentation Duration

90 Minutes

Trench Collapse - Before the Team Arrives

Presenter: ***Dan Shultz***

The potential for a trench collapse is not limited to towns or cities with trench rescue capabilities. a collapse can happen in any town at any time. Trench rescue is a low frequency, high risk operation that is manpower and equipment intensive. A trench rescue requires the response of a training technical rescue team, which in most areas can take time. In this program we discuss operations and tasks that can safely be done prior to the arrival of “the team”. This course starts out with a brief introduction to the information given in the NYS trench rescue awareness program and builds off that.

Target Audience

Fire department members with little to no trench rescue training or capabilities

Presentation Duration

90 Minutes

Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications Field Operations

Presenters:

Lawrence Mitchell

Mike Carl

The NY Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications will be presenting information on how they operate and can support both Emergency and Planned incidents with a wide array of services and equipment to facilitate the communications of Responders in the field.

Target Audience

First Responders and Emergency Management

Presentation Duration

90 Minutes

How we use drones for rescue – examples and demos

Presenter: ***Idan Peretz***

I have a vision of the future world of rope access which includes unmanned solutions. These solutions will reduce the risk, reduce costs and will save precious time during operations.

During this talk I will go over the latest technology developments enabling better access. I will share photos and videos from our search for solutions and field tests we have done and with the final and most updated solutions that have been tested on the field with fire fighters, rescuers, and elite units around the world.

The main discussion will focus on drone carried solutions that were designed specifically for rescue missions. I will show new methods to pass ropes and to create anchor points using this technology.

I will cover solutions for rope access, rescue, Swiftwater rescue and will discuss the pros and cons of several techniques as well as other aspects like regulations, flight safety and training.

Target Audience

Firefighters, First Responders, Technical Rescuers, Rope Access Rescue Trainers, Emergency Management Personnel, Rescue Team Leaders, Logistics Officers, Chief Officers

Presentation Duration

90 Minutes

Advanced Solutions for Emergency Evacuation and Rescue in Urban Settings

Presenter: *Idan Peretz*

The main challenge in an emergency that involves the need for quick evacuation or rescue, is the need to find an anchor point quickly. I will show the most advanced portable anchor systems that were designed for such missions, explain, and demonstrate their work principles and show videos and photos from training and field usage. I will give examples how to use these systems in buildings, industrial facilities, confined space environments, wind turbines, cranes towers and amusement parks facilities. This will be a class discussion with a presentation and explanation and to include some demonstrations on simple recue scenarios and bailout techniques.

Target Audience

Firefighters, First Responders, Technical Rescuers, Rope Access Rescue Trainers, Emergency Management Personnel, Rescue Team Leaders, Logistics Officers, Chief Officers

Presentation Duration

90 Minutes

Air Medical Components of Rescue

Presenter: *Brian Crolius & Matthew Yelton*

This course is designed to inform rescuers of the equipment and capabilities of Air Medical assets in technical rescue scenarios. From advanced pharmacology, portable ultrasound, blood products on scene, advanced medical practice, and procedures to rapid transport to tertiary hospitals. The resources required for a successful landing zone and pertinent information needed for a successful handoff to HEMS crews.

Target Audience

Firefighters, First Responders, Technical Rescuers, Rope Access Rescue Trainers, Emergency Management Personnel, Rescue Team Leaders, Logistics Officers, Chief Officers

Presentation Duration

90 Minutes

Small Diameter Rope Systems

Presenters: *Brad Vrooman & Idan Peretz*

When it comes to saving lives, especially in rope rescue, the ability to move fast is critical. In order to move fast you need to pack small and go as light as you can.

Current developments of ropes technologies offer the ability to reduce weight and volume without sacrificing safety nor capabilities.

In this workshop we will show how to downsize the equipment you carry by choosing the right gear. We will focus on using lightweight 8mm ropes and we will practice mobility and rescue using these thinner ropes. Participants will be able to rappel, climb and perform rescues while using ropes almost half the diameter that most users use today.
We will show how to use various techniques and most up-to-date devices that can work with these thin ropes.

Target Audience

Fire fighters, emergency first responders, rescuers, rope access rescue trainers, emergency management personnel, rescue team leaders, logistics officers, fire chiefs

Presenters

Kimberly Adams, LCSW
Kim Adams, LCSW is a private practice Cognitive Behavioral Therapist in Allentown, PA. She treats high-risk and suicidal behavior: cognitive, physical, and behavioral traumatic stress responses, and treatment resistive depression. Kim is a certified lifeguard; a PSIA L1 Alpine and L1 Children's Specialist ski instructor; and an ACA L2 open water kayaking instructor. She has volunteered for the National Canoe Safety Patrol in Port Jervis, NY and has provided kayak support for the annual Steelman Open Water Swim and Triathlon series heled at Lake Nockamixon in Quakertown, PA.

Todd B. Bane
Todd Bane is a former Fire Chief from Monroe County with Bushnells Basin FD and Career Firefighter at the Frederick Douglas International Airport for 31 years. He retired as Chief in 2016. With a strong background in extrication and heavy rescue, Chief Bane has taught rescue programs in Passenger Vehicle, Heavy Vehicle, Aircraft, and programs in Heavy Lifting. He currently resides in Broadway North Carolina and is the Safety officer for Benhaven Emergency Services.

George Bassler
Deputy Chief George Bassler has been with OFPC for 19 years. He was promoted in 2017 to Deputy Chief of Special Operations. He is currently assigned to managing the Technical Rescue Central Region and oversees water rescue curriculum. He is also created and manages the Technical Rescue Team Accreditation program.

Jake Bromage
Jake Bromage, PhD is an Asst Chief and Rescue Specialist with MCSOU.

Terry Brown
Past District Chief Terry Brown is a unit leader with MCSOU

Mike Carl
Mike Carl is a Radio Engineer with OIEC, a All Hazard Certified COML, COMT, and Auxcom Instructor as well as previous Emergency Communications positions in Oneida and Oswego Counties.

Brian Crolius
Brian Crolius started in emergency services in 2006, becoming a NYS Paramedic in 2011. For the last 7 years of his time as a paramedic he has worked as a Flight Paramedic in Upstate NY for Mercy Flight Central. During his time at Mercy Flight Central he has obtained both his CCEMT-P and FP-C certifications. Outside of Mercy Flight Central Brian also serves as a Deputy Chief for Central Oneida County Ambulance Corps overseeing their Critical Care Transport Program and Education.

Kevin Deramus
Kevin is the Agency Director of a Government operated public safety EMS Agency that has one of the busiest special operations divisions in the State of Texas. With over 35 state deployments and multiple EMAC responses. Kevin currently holds the position as a water group supervisor for the water rescue responses within Texas Task Force 1. He is also the lead special operations instructor for TEEX (Texas A&M) where is serves as lead instructor for threat water rescue technician courses. He also serves as lead swift water boat operator instructor for TXTF.

Steve Disick
Steve Disick is a career fire Lieutenant with the City of Albany, NY., assigned to the Rescue Squad - the Capitol cities heavy rescue company. Steve has over 25 years of service as a firefighter, in both the career and volunteer contingents. Steve is ITRA certified as well, also teaches and performs rescue work for Capital Technical Rescue based out of Albany, NY.

Domenick DiRienzo
Domenick DiRienzo is a professional firefighter with the Eastchester Fire District in Westchester County. Domenick has served the residents of Eastchester, NY since 2001 as both a career and volunteer firefighter and was a promoted to Lieutenant in 2021. Domenick is also ITRA certified as well, also teaches and performs rescue work for Capital Technical Rescue based out of Albany, NY

Joe Gribbins
Joe Gribbins has over 40 years in the fire service and has been teaching water rescue since 1996. He is a career Captain in a New Jersey fire department and an 18-year member of NJTF1 - Urban Search and Rescue.

Peter Grocholski
Peter Grocholski has 30 years of experience in the fire service. He is currently a Fire Protection Specialist with the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control serving in the Special Operation Branch, a Rescue and Hazmat Technician for NYTF-2, as well as the Assistant Chief of the Western Fire Dept. in Westernville, NY. Peter has been a manned aircraft pilot since 1993 and a sUAS pilot since 2013. He is currently a sUAS instructor and serves on the working committee for the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services' sUAS program.

Bill Hallinan RN, MS
Bill Hallinan is rescue specialist with the NY Monroe County Special Operations Team (MCSOU) and Staff Nurse with the US Dept of HHS NY DMAT 6 Team. He is a past Asst. Chief with the Spencerport Fire District, Trauma Program Manager of the Kessler Trauma Center and Chief Paramedic. He has authored articles in both JEMS and Fire Engineering and is a frequent featured speaker across NY conferences.

Greg Merrell
Greg Merrell, is a Battalion Chief with Oklahoma City Fire Department, Task Force Leader with OK-TF 1, US&R Team and Lead Technical Rescue Instructor with Oklahoma State University-Fire Service Training and Animal Search & Rescue Training and Response. He has served as a Technical Rescue Company Officer with OKC FD. Chief Merrell has taught Swiftwater rescue and boat operations throughout the country to Fire, EMS, US&R, Law Enforcement and Military personnel. He has multiple water rescue deployments with OK-TF 1 serving as both Task Force Leader and Rescue Team Manager. Chief Merrell has taught at multiple conferences and has several articles published in national publications.

Conor Miller
Conor Miller has been with the West Point Fire Dept for 15 years currently serving as a Lieutenant on Engine 1/Rescue 1. He holds experience with both volunteer and career fire departments and technical rescue teams. He teaches for NYS OFPC's special operations branch and Orange County NY's Fire training center. He currently holds the title of training officer for the Orange County Technical Rescue Team.

Lawrence Mitchell
Lawrence (Buddy) Mitchell is the Radio Engineering Manager for OIEC Field Operations, a All Hazard Certified COML, COMT Instructor and a Past Chief and Life Member of the Victory Mills F.D. in Saratoga County.

Ron Moore
Ron is a retired career Firefighter who began his Fire Service career in New York State. He presents across the country a variety of vehicle rescue programs.

Beau Moreno
18 Year veteran of the Housrton Fire Department and Member of Texas A&M Task Force 1, who moved up through the ranks of the Technical Rescue Team and was instramental in high water rescues durning Hurricane Harvey. Post Harvey has worked to streamline High Profile Vehicle operations across Southeast Texas with hopes of driving this program nationwide. Experienced Operator with a demonstrated history of working in the government administration industry. Skilled in Emergency Management, Disaster Response, Fire Management, and Team Building.
Knowledgeable education advocate adept in designing and directing instructional programs to develop top-performing teams to enhance response in challenging environments. Requiring adaptability and decisiveness to meet needs of ever-changing emergency environments.

Idan Peretz
Former Head of the Israeli Military school of climbing, search and rescue missions. He is a senior climbing instructor and a certified senior rappelling (abseil) instructor of the Israeli school of trainers and instructors. He has over 25 years of experience in teaching the field. Idan serves in the Judean Desert Emergency Response unit as rescue team leader for over 20 years. He has led and taken part in hundreds of national and international rescue operations. Idan serves as a professional advisor in the fields of rescue missions and working at heights. He is among the founders of the national rescue units in the security forces and the fire-fighting dept. Today the CEO and co-founder of Highnovate, developing innovative products for rope access and rescue.

Dr. Andrew R Poreda
Dr Poreda is an Emergency Physician at the University at Buffalo, where he is dual board certified in both Emergency Medicine and EMS and has written a textbook chapter for physicians on firefighter health & safety. In addition, he has been involved in fire/EMS for over 20 years and is trained in various Technical Rescue disciplines including, Ice, Swift Water, Confined Space, and High Angle Rope Rescue. Full bio available at: https://medicine.buffalo.edu/content/medicine/faculty/profile.html?ubit=arporeda

Dan Shultz
Dan Shultz is a 32-year fire service veteran and Past Captain of the Dover (Dutchess County) Fire Department where he currently serves as a Training Officer. He has 22 years of service for the City of Poughkeepsie 911 Center as a dispatcher. In addition, he is a New York State Fire Instructor assigned to Dutchess County.

Al Studt
Al Studt is a founding member of FL-TF4 US&R Team, Central FL, who, since 2007, has been an advocate, instructor, integrator, and author regarding the land search & rescue coordinate system US National Grid (USNG) teaching the subject in multiple states such as, FL, GA, VA, MI and NY. Studt has deployed to Hurricane Andrew (FL-1992), Hurricane Katrina (MS-2005) Berkman Garage collapse (FL-2007) and Champlain Towers condo collapse (FL-2021) and supported others remotely with mapping, as well as participated in numerous beachside evacuations with Canaveral Fire Rescue where he is a Lieutenant. He is a Fire Protection Systems Engineer at Kennedy Space Center, FL and resides in Cocoa, FL.

Bradley Vrooman
OFPC Special Operations SFI serving on the water rescue and rope rescue development committees. Former US Army Infantry Officer serving numerous assignments, including work as a mountaineering/ rope rescue instructor at the Northern Warfare Training Center in Alaska, and combat tactics instructor at the US Army Infantry School, Ft. Benning, Georgia. Served on US Army Mountain Rescue Teams in Vermont and Alaska. Avid whitewater enthusiast and instructor. Former American Canoe Association and Rescue 3 Swiftwater rescue instructor. Current Level 3 Instructor certification in the International Technical Rescue Association.

Matthew Yelton
Matthew Yelton has more than 12 years of experience in pre-hospital emergency medicine as a Paramedic, 8 years as a Flight Paramedic for Mercy Flight Central. Most recently he completed certification as an EMS instructor and has returned to college to complete his Associates Degree in Paramedicine. During his spare time, he volunteers as the EMS Captain for Constableville Ambulance Inc. and provides Education for EMS Providers